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P Hotz, Robert  
ORG, SALT

**Editorial**

## *The Defense Crisis*

After 30 years of enjoying the political and economic advantages of a clear military superiority over the Soviet Union, the United States is entering a dangerous period of crisis that may mortgage its future security for generations to come. In a steady, undeviating, plodding effort, the Soviet Union has now reached a position to attain military superiority in both conventional and strategic nuclear weapons and has set in motion what may be an irreversible trend to change the military balance of power in the world.

Despite all the recent debates on specific weapon systems and their capabilities, it has become crystal clear that the Soviet Union has been engaged in a massive research, development and production program of new generations of weapons on a scale not normally achieved except under full wartime conditions.

At the same time, President Jimmy Carter and his top defense advisers have deceptively concealed the full extent of the Soviet weapons production and deployment from the American people in the hope they can sell the idea that a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT 2) will deter the Soviets from their inexorable goals. President Carter's fanatical desire to conclude a SALT 2 agreement with the Soviets is as far away from the real arms crisis as was his biblical pose in sponsoring an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty while Iran and the rest of the vital Persian Gulf oil countries are crumbling under relentless Soviet pressure.

### *Intelligence Politicized*

To try to sell the American people on the false security concept of SALT 2 the Carter Administration has politicized the national intelligence estimates to downgrade the Soviet achievements, squandered more than \$600,000 of the taxpayers' money in a bald attempt to peddle SALT 2 snake oil to the citizens of this republic and made crucial concessions to the Soviets in the treaty negotiations that not only jeopardize future U.S. security but that of our NATO allies.

Ever since President Carter backtracked from his original proposal of actual strategic arms reduction to the Soviets early in 1977, his Russian adversaries have diagnosed him as a pushover for their bullying, blustering tactics. Every major concession during the prolonged SALT 2 negotiations has been made by the Carter Administration, not the Soviets. And while these concessions were being forced by the tough realism of Soviet leadership, it also was applying increased military, political and economic pressure against the vital treasure troves of the Western world. The President of Somalia, situated on the strategic

Horn of Africa, recently told top-level British officials that Soviet leaders had made it bluntly clear to him when he was their temporary ally that their current policy had two goals:

First, pinch off the oil of the Middle East from the economic systems of the West.

Second, disrupt and deny the mineral resources of Africa on which the Western industrial nations are dependent.

A look at the current globe, pinpointing the areas of Soviet-fomented strife, will indicate how successful they have been. Iran, where the pro-Western Shah has been replaced by the Kalishnikov-armed revolutionary councils. Afghanistan, where a pro-Soviet regime outflanked both Iran and Pakistan. Civil war in Yemen, and Ethiopia astride the Horn of Africa. Guerrilla wars all over Africa where gold, uranium, columbium, copper and other resources vital to Western industry are found. All this is accompanied by a stern Soviet demand that none of these aggressions be related to strategic arms negotiations.

### *Soviet SALT Aims Clear*

The aims of the Soviets in their SALT negotiations have been clear from the outset:

First, they use the language of the treaties to outlaw or blunt major U.S. technological advantages. SALT 1 wiped out the clear U.S. technical lead in missile defense systems and left the land-based Minuteman ICBM force naked and vulnerable to the first strike capability the Soviets will now achieve in 1981. President Carter gave the Soviets their first objective in SALT 2 by unilaterally canceling the B-1 strategic bomber system. The current Soviet technical objective in SALT 2 is to blunt the full capabilities of the U.S. cruise missile and deny its use to U.S. European allies.

Second, they hope to lull the U.S. into a false sense of security with these treaties and the prime time television fantasies that U.S. presidents spin from them to stimulate unilateral U.S. disarmament below the actual boundaries set by the treaty provisions. Thus President Jimmy Carter has been stalling on deployment of the MX missile, which would be allowed in SALT 2, while the Soviets have been developing a new giant ICBM twice the size of MX and using their SS-18 to throw 14 separate warheads each with sufficient accuracy to wipe out a Minuteman silo.

The treacherous betrayal being orchestrated in SALT and the failure of the Carter Administration to respond to the massive Soviet arms buildup deserves the attention of every American citizen concerned with the future of this country.